

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 was rejected for improper dependency. Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 11 relates to a particulate detergent composition which comprises the anionic surfactant particles of claim 1. So although the particles themselves must have 95wt. % or higher of anionic surfactant content, the particulate detergent composition can comprise (theoretically) any wt.% amount of the anionic surfactant particles. So this objection is not correct by the Examiner. The dependency of claim 10, however, has been corrected to depend from claim 9.

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over GB 2 142 341 A. The composition claims were amended to recite that the particle consists of LAS, PAS sodium carbonate and water. Support for this amendment may be found in the Examples 1 and 2 of the specification.

Any surfactant flake disclosed in GB '341 must contain a minimum 0.5 wt. % NaCl. Therefore the subject matter of amended claim 1 is not anticipated. With respect to obviousness, GB '341 specifically teaches that NaCl is essential and should be present at a preferred level of 6 to 8 wt. %. There is no motivation for a skilled person from the teachings of GB '341 to remove NaCl from the flake, in fact it is taught as essential. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the composition claims over GB '341 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

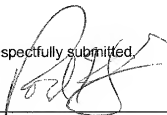
The process claim 8 which has been rewritten as an independent claim is further removed from GB '341. GB '341 does not appear to teach or suggest premixing LAS acid with sodium carbonate and only then admixing PAS. Rather, GB '341 teaches making a paste containing all of the ingredients at the same time. In light of the differences between the processes in GB '341 and the present claim 8, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 8 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

With respect to the obviousness-type double-patenting rejection, in light of the availability of Terminal Disclaimer practice, applicants agree to the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer upon an indication of the allowable subject matter.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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